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I. SUMMARY

1. This is a civil rights action by plaintiff Barbara Hubbard ("Hubbard") for discrimination at the building, structure, facility, complex, property, land, development, and/or surrounding business complex known as:

Sunrise Buffet 4550 Camino de la Plaza San Ysidro, CA 92173 (hereafter "the Restaurant")

2. Hubbard seeks damages, injunctive and declaratory relief, attorney fees and costs, against Sunrise Buffet San Ysidro, Inc. dba Sunrise Buffet and FS San Ysidro (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Sunrise Buffet") pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.), and related California statutes.

II. JURISDICTION

- 3. This Court has original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343 for ADA claims.
- 4. Supplemental jurisdiction for claims brought under parallel California law—arising from the same nucleus of operative facts—is predicated on 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
 - 5. Hubbard's claims are authorized by 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

III. VENUE

6. All actions complained of herein take place within the jurisdiction of the United States District Court, Southern District of California, and venue is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), (c).

IV. PARTIES

7. Sunrise Buffet owns, operates, and/or leases the Restaurant, and consists of a person (or persons), firm, and/or corporation.

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Hubbard v. Sunrise Buffet San Ysidro, Inc., et al. Plaintiff's Complaint

8. Hubbard has multiple conditions that affect one or more major life functions. She requires the use of motorized wheelchair and a mobility-equipped vehicle, when traveling about in public. Consequently, Hubbard is "physically disabled," as defined by all applicable California and United States laws, and a member of the public whose rights are protected by these laws.

V. FACTS

- 9. The Restaurant is an establishment open to the public, intended for nonresidential use and whose operation affects commerce.
- 10. Hubbard visited the Restaurant and encountered barriers (both physical and intangible) that interfered with—if not outright denied—her ability to use and enjoy the goods, services, privileges, and accommodations offered at the facility. To the extent known by Hubbard, the barriers at the Restaurant included, but are not limited to, the following:
 - There is no accessible route from the public way to the Restaurant's entrance;
 - There is no tow away signage posted;
 - The disabled parking spaces are not located in the closet available spaces;
 - The disabled parking signage is incorrect some signs use the word "handicapped;"
 - The van accessible signage is incorrect;
 - The access aisles have slopes and cross slopes that exceed 2.0% due to the encroaching built up curb ramp;
 - The International Symbol of Accessibility ("ISA")painted in the disabled stalls is too small;
 - The cross slope of the sidewalk exceeds 2.0%;
 - The entry door requires twisting, pinching, and/or grasping;
 - There is no ISA posted at the entrance;
 - There is no seating designated as being accessible to the disabled;

There is no disabled seating;

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- There is insufficient clear floor space along the route to the seating;
- The ISA at the restroom door is mounted too low;
- Due to the inward swing of the door, there is insufficient clear floor space required to access the water closet;
- The door is not self closing;
- The side grab bar does not extend 24 inches from the front of the water closet;
- The toilet tissue dispenser encroaches into the clear maneuvering space required to access the water closet;
- The trash receptacle obstructs the use of the paper towel dispenser; and,
- The pipes underneath the lavatory are improperly and/or incompletely wrapped.

These barriers prevented Hubbard from enjoying full and equal access.

- 11. Hubbard was also deterred from visiting the Restaurant because she knew that the Restaurant's goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations were unavailable to physically disabled patrons (such as herself). She continues to be deterred from visiting the Restaurant because of the future threats of injury created by these barriers.
- 12. Hubbard also encountered barriers at the Restaurant, which violate state and federal law, but were unrelated to her disability. Nothing within this Complaint, however, should be construed as an allegation that Hubbard is seeking to remove barriers unrelated to her disability.
- 13. Sunrise Buffet knew that these elements and areas of the Restaurant were inaccessible, violate state and federal law, and interfere with (or deny) access to the physically disabled. Moreover, Sunrise Buffet has the financial resources to remove these barriers from the Restaurant (without much difficulty or expense), and make the facility accessible to the physically disabled. To date,

however, Sunrise Buffet refuses to either remove those barriers or seek an unreasonable hardship exemption to excuse non-compliance.

- 14. At all relevant times, Sunrise Buffet has possessed and enjoyed sufficient control and authority to modify the Restaurant to remove impediments to wheelchair access and to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines and Title 24 regulations. Sunrise Buffet has not removed such impediments and has not modified the Restaurant to conform to accessibility standards. Sunrise Buffet has intentionally maintained the Restaurant in its current condition and has intentionally refrained from altering the Restaurant so that it complies with the accessibility standards.
- 15. Hubbard further alleges that the (continued) presence of barriers at the Restaurant is so obvious as to establish Sunrise Buffet discriminatory intent. On information and belief, Hubbard avers that evidence of this discriminatory intent includes Sunrise Buffet refusal to adhere to relevant building standards; disregard for the building plans and permits issued for the Restaurant; conscientious decision to the architectural layout (as it currently exists) at the Restaurant; decision not to remove barriers from the Restaurant; and allowance that the Restaurant continues to exist in its non-compliant state. Hubbard further alleges, on information and belief, that Sunrise Buffet is not in the midst of a remodel, and that the barriers present at the Restaurant are not isolated (or temporary) interruptions in access due to maintenance or repairs.²

VI. FIRST CLAIM

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Denial of "Full and Equal" Enjoyment and Use

16. Hubbard incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 15 for this claim.

E.g., Gunther v. Lin, 144 Cal. App. 4th 223, fn. 6

Id.; 28 C.F.R. § 36.211(b)

Hubbard v. Sunrise Buffet San Ysidro, Inc., et al. Plaintiff's Complaint

17. Title III of the ADA holds as a "general rule" that no individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment (or use) of goods, services, facilities, privileges, and accommodations offered by any person who owns, operates, or leases a place of public accommodation. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a).

18. Sunrise Buffet discriminated against Hubbard by denying "full and equal enjoyment" and use of the goods, services, facilities, privileges or accommodations of the Restaurant during each visit and each incident of deterrence.

Failure to Remove Architectural Barriers in an Existing Facility

- 19. The ADA specifically prohibits failing to remove architectural barriers, which are structural in nature, in existing facilities where such removal is readily achievable. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv). The term "readily achievable" is defined as "easily accomplishable and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense." <u>Id.</u> § 12181(9).
- 20. When an entity can demonstrate that removal of a barrier is not readily achievable, a failure to make goods, services, facilities, or accommodations available through alternative methods is also specifically prohibited if these methods are readily achievable. Id. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(v).
- 21. Here, Hubbard alleges that Sunrise Buffet can easily remove the architectural barriers at the Restaurant without much difficulty or expense, and that Sunrise Buffet violated the ADA by failing to remove those barriers, when it was readily achievable to do so.
- 22. In the alternative, if it was not "readily achievable" for Sunrise Buffet to remove the Restaurant's barriers, then Sunrise Buffet violated the ADA by failing to make the required services available through alternative methods, which are readily achievable.

Failure to Design and Construct an Accessible Facility

- 23. On information and belief, the Restaurant was designed or constructed (or both) after January 26, 1992—independently triggering access requirements under Title III of the ADA.
- 24. The ADA also prohibits designing and constructing facilities for first occupancy after January 26, 1993, that aren't readily accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities when it was structurally practicable to do so. 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(1).
- 25. Here, Sunrise Buffet violated the ADA by designing or constructing (or both) the Restaurant in a manner that was not readily accessible to the physically disabled public—including Hubbard—when it was structurally practical to do so.³

Failure to Make an Altered Facility Accessible

- 26. On information and belief, the Restaurant was modified after January 26, 1992, independently triggering access requirements under the ADA.
- 27. The ADA also requires that facilities altered in a manner that affects (or could affect) its usability must be made readily accessible to individuals with disabilities to the maximum extent feasible. 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(2). Altering an area that contains a facility's primary function also requires adding making the paths of travel, bathrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving that area accessible to the maximum extent feasible. <u>Id.</u>
- 28. Here, Sunrise Buffet altered the Restaurant in a manner that violated the ADA and was not readily accessible to the physically disabled public—including Hubbard—to the maximum extent feasible.

Nothing within this Complaint should be construed as an allegation that plaintiff is bringing this action as a private attorney general under either state or federal statutes.

Failure to Modify Existing Policies and Procedures

- 29. The ADA also requires reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures, when necessary to afford such goods, services, facilities, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities, unless the entity can demonstrate that making such modifications would fundamentally alter their nature. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii).
- 30. Here, Sunrise Buffet violated the ADA by failing to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures at the Restaurant, when these modifications were necessary to afford (and would not fundamentally alter the nature of) these goods, services, facilities, or accommodations.
- 31. Hubbard seeks all relief available under the ADA (*i.e.*, injunctive relief, attorney fees, costs, legal expense) for these aforementioned violations. 42 U.S.C. § 12205.
- 32. Hubbard also seeks a finding from this Court (*i.e.*, declaratory relief) that Sunrise Buffet violated the ADA in order to pursue damages under California's Unruh Civil Rights Act or Disabled Persons Act.

VII. SECOND CLAIM

Disabled Persons Act

- 33. Hubbard incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 30 for this claim.
- 34. California Civil Code § 54 states, in part, that: Individuals with disabilities have the same right as the general public to the full and free use of the streets, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings and facilities, and other public places.
- 35. California Civil Code § 54.1 also states, in part, that: Individuals with disabilities shall be entitled to full and equal access to accommodations, facilities, telephone facilities, places of public accommodation, and other places to which the general public is invited.

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- 36. Both sections specifically incorporate (by reference) an individual's rights under the ADA. See Civil Code §§ 54(c) and 54.1(d).
- 37. Here, Sunrise Buffet discriminated against the physically disabled public—including Hubbard—by denying them full and equal access to the Restaurant. Sunrise Buffet also violated Hubbard's rights under the ADA, and, therefore, infringed upon or violated (or both) Hubbard's rights under the Disabled Persons Act.
- 38. <u>For each offense</u> of the Disabled Persons Act, Hubbard seeks actual damages (both general and special damages), statutory minimum damages of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), declaratory relief, and any other remedy available under California Civil Code § 54.3.
- 39. She also seeks to enjoin Sunrise Buffet from violating the Disabled Persons Act (and ADA) under California Civil Code § 55, and to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and incurred under California Civil Code §§ 54.3 and 55.

VIII. THIRD CLAIM

Unruh Civil Rights Act

- 40. Hubbard incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 30 for this claim.
- 41. California Civil Code § 51 states, in part, that: All persons within the jurisdiction of this state are entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business establishments of every kind whatsoever.
- 42. California Civil Code § 51.5 also states, in part, that: No business establishment of any kind whatsoever shall discriminate against any person in this state because of the disability of the person.
- 43. California Civil Code § 51(f) specifically incorporates (by reference) an individual's rights under the ADA into the Unruh Act.

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- 44. Sunrise Buffet aforementioned acts and omissions denied the physically disabled public—including Hubbard—full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges and services in a business establishment (because of their physical disability).
- 45. These acts and omissions (including the ones that violate the ADA) denied, aided or incited a denial, or discriminated against Hubbard by violating the Unruh Act.
- 46. Hubbard was damaged by Sunrise Buffet wrongful conduct, and seeks statutory minimum damages of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for each offense.
- 47. Hubbard also seeks to enjoin Sunrise Buffet from violating the Unruh Act (and ADA), and recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred under California Civil Code § 52(a).

IX. FOURTH CLAIM

Denial of Full and Equal Access to Public Facilities

- 48. Hubbard incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 13 for this claim.
- 49. Health and Safety Code § 19955(a) states, in part, that: California public accommodations or facilities (built with private funds) shall adhere to the provisions of Government Code § 4450.
- 50. Health and Safety Code § 19959 states, in part, that: Every existing (non-exempt) public accommodation constructed prior to July 1, 1970, which is altered or structurally repaired, is required to comply with this chapter.
- 51. Hubbard alleges the Restaurant is a public accommodation constructed, altered, or repaired in a manner that violates Part 5.5 of the Health and Safety Code or Government Code § 4450 (or both), and that the Restaurant was not exempt under Health and Safety Code § 19956.

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Sunrise Buffet non-compliance with these requirements at the 52. Restaurant aggrieved (or potentially aggrieved) Hubbard and other persons with physical disabilities. Accordingly, she seeks injunctive relief and attorney fees pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 19953.

X. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Hubbard prays judgment against Sunrise Buffet for:

- Injunctive relief, preventive relief, or any other relief the Court deems proper.
- Declaratory relief that Sunrise Buffet violated the ADA for the purposes of 2. Unruh Act or Disabled Persons Act damages.
- Statutory minimum damages under either sections 52(a) or 54.3(a) of the 3. California Civil Code (but not both) according to proof.
- Attorneys' fees, litigation expenses, and costs of suit.⁴ 4.
- Interest at the legal rate from the date of the filing of this action. 5.

DATED: July 29, 2008

DISABLED ADVOCACY GROUP, APLC



This includes attorneys' fees under California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5. Hubbard v. Sunrise Buffet San Ysidro, Inc., et al. Plaintiff's Complaint

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO DIVISION

153510 - TC

July 31, 2008 10:17:15

Civ Fil Non-Pris

USAO #.: 08CV1384

Judge..: LARRY A BURNS

Amount.:

\$350.00 CC

Total-> \$350.00

FROM: BARBARA HUBBARD

SUNRISE BUFFET

CIVIL COVER SHEET SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07) The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Cle the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.) DEFENDANTS I. (a) PLAINTIFFS SUNRISE BUFFET SAN YSIDRO, TIC. 360 SUNRI BARBARA HUBBARD BUFFET: FS SAN YSIDRO, LIC nce of First Lister Defendant, U.S. DISTRICT COURT OF CALIFORN (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff SAN DIEGO First Listed Defending No. 1 DISTRICT (IN U.S. PLANTIFF CASES ONLY) DEPUTY (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMN AND CASES LAND INVOLVED. 1384 LÁB POR Attorneys (If Known) (c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) DISABLED ADVOCACY GROUP, APLC LYNN HUBBARD. III 12 Williamsburg Lane Chico, CA 95926 (530) 895-3252 III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) and One Box for Defendant) (For Diversity Cases O PTF ĎEF ■ 3 Federal Question U.S. Government Incorporated or Principal Place 4 D 4 Citizen of This State σ 0 1 (U.S. Government Not a Party) Plaintiff of Business In This State 2 Incorporated and Principal Place 5 D 5 Citizen of Another State \Box 2 7 4 Diversity □ 2 U.S. Government of Business In Another State Defendant (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III) O 6 9 0 6 Citizen or Subject of a \Box 3 3 Foreign Nation Foreign Country NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only) OTHER STATUTES 15 13 INFORFEITURE/RENALTY BANKRUPTGY CONTRACT 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 400 State Reapportionment PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 610 Agriculture ☐ 110 Insurance 310 Airplane 362 Personal Injury -☐ 620 Other Food & Drug 423 Withdrawal 410 Antitrust ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 625 Drug Related Seizure 28 USC 157 430 Banks and Banking Med. Malpractice 315 Airplane Product ☐ 130 Miller Act of Property 21 USC 881 450 Commerce 365 Personal Injury -Liability 140 Negotiable Instrument PROPERTY RIGHTS ☐ 630 Liquor Laws 460 Deportation Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & 150 Recovery of Overpayment 470 Racketeer Influenced and ☐ 820 Copyrights ☐ 368 Asbestos Personal ☐ 640 R.R. & Truck & Enforcement of Judgment Slander ☐ 650 Airline Regs. 330 Patent Corrupt Organizations Injury Product ☐ 151 Medicare Act 330 Federal Employers' 840 Trademark 480 Consumer Credit ☐ 660 Occupational 152 Recovery of Defaulted Liability Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY Safety/Health 490 Cable/Sat TV Student Loans 340 Marine ☐ 690 Other 810 Selective Service 370 Other Fraud (Excl. Veterans) 345 Marine Product 371 Truth in Lending 850 Securities/Commodities/ LABOR ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment Liability Exchange ☐ 861 HIA (1395ff) 710 Fair Labor Standards 380 Other Personal of Veteran's Benefits 350 Motor Vehicle 875 Customer Challenge 862 Black Lung (923) 160 Stockholders' Suits 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage Act ☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) ☐ 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 12 USC 3410 ☐ 190 Other Contract Product Liability 385 Property Damage ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI 890 Other Statutory Actions ☐ 730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting Product Liability ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability 360 Other Personal 891 Agricultural Acts & Disclosure Act ☐ 865 RSI (405(g)) ☐ 196 Franchise Injury 892 Economic Stabilization Act FEDERAL TAXISUITS 740 Railway Labor Act REAL PROPERTY " CIVIL RIGHTS : F PRISONER PETITIONS 893 Environmental Matters 370 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff 510 Motions to Vacate ☐ 790 Other Labor Litigation 441 Voting ☐ 210 Land Condemnation 894 Energy Allocation Act 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. or Defendant) ☐ 220 Foreclosure 442 Employment Sentence 895 Freedom of Information Security Act 443 Housing/ Habeas Corpus: ☐ 871 IRS—Third Party ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 530 General 26 USC 7609 Act Accommodations 240 Torts to Land 900Appeal of Fee Determination " IMMIGRATION 535 Death Penalty 245 Tort Product Liability 444 Welfare 540 Mandamus & Other Under Equal Access 445 Amer. w/Disabilities -462 Naturalization Application 290 All Other Real Property to Justice 550 Civil Rights 463 Habeas Corpus -Employment 950 Constitutionality of 446 Amer. w/Disabilities -555 Prison Condition Alien Detainee State Statutes 465 Other Immigration Other ☐ 440 Other Civil Rights Actions Appeal to District V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Transferred from \Box 6 Multidistrict \Box 7 Judge from 2 Removed from Remanded from ☐ 4 Reinstated or ☐ 5 Original \square 3 another district Magistrate State Court Appellate Court Reopened Proceeding Judgment (specify) Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 42 U.S.C. Section 12101, et seq. VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Brief description of cause:
Ongoing violations of the ADA Construction Standards CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: VII. REQUESTED IN **DEMAND \$** CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION ☐ Yes Ø No JURY DEMAND: UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 **COMPLAINT:** VIII. RELATED CASE(S) (See instructions): DOCKET NUMBER IF ANY JUDGE SIGNATURE OF A DATE 07/29/2008 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY JUDGE MAG. JUDGE APPLYING IFP